

Office of Attorney General Terry Goddard



STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW
1275 W. WASHINGTON STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2926
WWW.AZAG.GOV

ANDREA M. ESQUER
PRESS SECRETARY
PHONE: (602) 542-8019
CELL PHONE: (602) 725-2200

Terry Goddard to Co-Host Town Hall on Polygamous Communities

(Phoenix, Ariz. – April 17, 2007) Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard and Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff are inviting the public to attend the third Town Hall concerning efforts to help victims from polygamous communities. The meeting will be held next Tuesday, April 24, in St. George, Utah.

Earlier in the day, a nationally known expert on authoritarian groups will lead a special training for social workers, law enforcement officers and others offering help to these communities.

"Arizona and Utah have worked closely together to make sure the state borders don't create any barriers to victims getting help," Goddard said. "This meeting will be an opportunity for the public to learn how to pitch in and help."

The Town Hall will be moderated by Ken Verdoia, KUED-TV Director of Production and award-winning documentary producer. After remarks from Shurtleff and Goddard, the following panelists will speak:

- Maureen Crump, Safe Passage Grant Case Manager, who has been assisting victims of domestic violence from polygamous communities.
- LeAnne Timpson, charter school principal in Colorado City.
- Fawn Broadbent, teen and former resident of Colorado City.
- Natalie Hammon, high school basketball coach in Colorado City.
- Gary Engels, Mohave County Attorney's Office investigator assigned to Colorado City.

Audience members then can make comments or ask questions of panel members.

"Nearly everyone has an opinion about polygamy and what is happening in some of the more isolated communities," says Mark Shurtleff. "This is a chance for the public to get more informed on the issues and speak out about efforts to provide access to safety and justice."

The keynote speaker at the training will be Livia Bardin, an independent scholar, author and licensed clinical social worker, who is an expert on authoritarian groups. Law enforcement officers, social workers and other people working with polygamous communities will be able to attend the training for a nominal fee because of a grant from the Department of Justice for National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

The idea to invite Bardin came from members of the Centennial Park Action Committee, a volunteer group from a polygamous community that has been working to create better relations

with government agencies. "Livia understands the critical issues involved with isolated groups," said CPAC member LeAnne Timpson. "She helps people identify barriers and understand effective ways of approaching sensitive situations."

Planning for the training and the Town Hall was done by the Safety Net Committee, a group that has been meeting for four years and includes members from government agencies, non-profit agencies and other organizations working together to promote justice, safety and education for people living in polygamous communities.

Event Information:

Who & What: The public is invited to attend the free Town Hall featuring Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard, Utah Attorney General Mark Shurtleff and others

When: 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Where: Dixie Center, 1835 S. Convention Center Drive, St. George, Utah

###